

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 DHA-02 /059 W
-----250633Z 104279 /20

R 220414Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4338
INFO AMC
KSUL CALCUTTA 4247
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 2119

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, BG
SUBJ: ELEVEN POLITICAL PRISONERS RELEASED

REF: A) 76 DACCA 6081 (NOTAL); B) DACCA 2116

1. ON APRIL 21, THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCED THE RELEASE OF ELEVEN POLITICAL PRISONERS. INCLUDED AMONG THE RELEASED WERE ABDUL MALIK UKIL, FORMER SPEAKER OF THE BANGLADESH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND SENIOR AWAMI LEAGUE LEADER; ABDUL MATIN, A LEADER OF THE EAST PAKISTAN COMMUNIST PARTY WHO WAS ARRESTED IN 1974; AND MRS. MATIA CHOUDHURY, A MEMBER OF NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY (MUZAFFAR GROUP) WHO WAS ARRESTED LAST NOVEMBER WHEN PRESIDENT ZIA ASSUMED THE POSITION OF CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR (REFTEL A). THE OTHER EIGHT POLITICIANS RELEASED APPEAR TO BE A DISPARATE COLLECTION OF LESSER LIGHTS.

2. COMMENT: IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT THE RELEASE OF THESE POLITICAL PRISONERS IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO ZIA'S
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ASSUMPTION OF THE PRESIDENCY, ALTHOUGH SUCH A STEP WOULD REQUIRE HIS EXPLICIT APPROVAL. THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN RELEASED DO NOT APPEAR TO POSE A CHALLENGE TO ZIA'S AUTHORITY EITHER AS PRESIDENT OR AS CMLA. ABDUL MALIK UKIL AS A MODERATE AWAMI LEAGUER IS LIKELY TO ALIGN HIMSELF WITH MIZANUR RAHMAN CHOUDHURY IN THE LATTER'S ATTEMPT TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE AWAMI LEAGUE (REFTEL B).

MATIA CHOUDHURY AND ABDUL MATIN'S PARTIES ARE TOO SMALL
TO CAUSE CONCERN TO ZIA. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT MRS.
SAJEDA CHOUDHURY, FORMERLY ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY OF
THE AWAMI LEAGUE AND KNOWN AS A MORE STRIDENT "MUJIBBADI",
WAS NOT RELEASED. SHE AND MUSHTAQUE AHMAD ARE ONLY
PROMINENT DETAINEES FROM NOVEMBER ROUNDUP STILL IN CUSTODY.
MASTERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DACCA02119
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770143-0206
Format: TEL
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770430/aaaaazpi.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d5801fa1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 DACCA 6081, 77 DACCA 2116
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2728849
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELEVEN POLITICAL PRISONERS RELEASED
TAGS: PINT, BG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d5801fa1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009